and Gauhati. The Regional Training Institutes for Programme Personnel are also proposed to be expanded in the Seventh Plan.

The implementation of the 7th Plan Schemes would depend on the final shape of the plan and the allotment of funds made.

**Permanent measures of drought prone areas**

2886. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to take permanent measures in the drought prone areas in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the schemes prepared for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) The Drought Prone Areas Programme in selected blocks in the country is in operation from the Fourth Plan to provide permanent measures to mitigate the effects of drought. The programme has an integrated area approach and aims at restoration of ecological balance and optional development of land, water, livestock and human resources with improvement in productivity. The schemes taken up include adoption of proper land use practices and cropping pattern under dry land agriculture, soil and moisture conservation and water harvesting, minor irrigation, afforestation and pasture/fodder development, livestock development, horticulture, sericulture, fisheries etc. The programme has been continued in the Seventh Plan with the coverage increasing to 615 blocks as against 511 blocks in the Sixth plan.

2887. [*Transferred to the 22nd August, 1985.*]

**Support price for cotton**

2888. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it s a fact that there has been delay in declaration of support price of cotton for the year 1985-86;

(b) whether Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission declares support price of all varieties of cotton or only few varieties; and

(c) by when the support price is likely to be declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (c) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has submitted its report on Price policy for Kharif Crops, including Cotton, for 1985-86 Season. According to the existing procedure, the report of the Commission has been circulated to State Governments and concerned Central Ministries in order to elicit their views. Replies have since, been received from some of the States and the Central Ministries. However, some major States are yet to send their views on the Commission's report. Government's decision on the support price of cotton will be finalised as soon as the views of the remaining States are received.

The CACP has recommended support prices of raw cotton in respect of two basic varieties, F-414/H-777 and H-4, the former in the medium/superior medium group and the latter in the long/superior long group. After the Government's decision on the minimum support prices of the two basic varieties, the Textile Commissioner in the Department of Textiles will fix the minimum support prices of other varieties of cotton in diffe-